

Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers....August 2010

about this book

Every year almost a quarter of a million confused and frightened American men are tossed into a prostate cancer cauldron stirred by salespeople representing a multibillion-dollar industry. In this flourishing business, the radical prostatectomy is still the most widely recommended treatment option. Yet a recent and definitive study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* concluded that out of the fifty thousand prostate operations performed annually, more than forty thousand are unjustified. But this is no surprise given that 99 percent of all doctors treating this disease are surgeons or radiation therapists. The appalling fact is that men are still being rushed into a major operation that rarely prolongs life and more than half the time leaves them impotent. *Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers* is a report on the latest thinking in prostate cancer therapy: close monitoring—active surveillance rather than surgery or radiation—should be the initial treatment approach for many men. There are three stages of prostate cancer and this book will provide accurate information about how to distinguish between them: *Low-Risk*, which requires no immediate treatment; *Intermediate-Risk*, which will benefit from surgery, radiation, and/or hormonal therapy; and *High-Risk*, a type that does require immediate treatment with a combination of therapies. In a unique collaboration, doctor and patient provide a wholly new perspective on managing this disease. Ralph Blum's account of his personal struggle, together with Dr. Mark Scholz's presentation of new scientific advances, provides convincing evidence that this noninvasive approach can be crucial in preventing tens of thousands of men from being over-treated every year. *Invasion of the Prostate Snatchers* serves as an indispensable map through the medical minefield of prostate cancer.